



## Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

### Author Jim Shields to Sign 'Starbird's Special Gift' at Kentucky Artisan Center

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BEREA, Ky. – On Saturday, Nov. 22, Jim Shields, of Lexington, will sign copies of his new children's book "Starbird's Special Gift" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea.

This new children's book includes a CD of the author reading this fascinating story about a young boy who cares for a bird that he finds struggling in the snow. The story offers readers and listeners numerous life lessons, and the illustrations in "Starbird's Special Gift," bring the story to life for readers of all ages.

Shields grew up on a small dairy farm in Warren County, Tennessee. He has been writing since he was a teenager, and he continued to write creatively for college courses and for the local newspaper while he attended Berea College. He received his degree from the University of Kentucky and has pursued a career in the pharmaceutical industry, living in Kentucky almost continuously since 1970.

Writing has been a hobby for Shields, who has found that in his business travels he could write and compose almost anywhere.

"My writing voice is really how I think – and it has evolved into a sort of style that I am currently using," he said.

Shields' other interests include book collections, reading history and nature photography. While a few reflections included in his book have resulted from fresh air and solitude, he states that "most of my writing just happens... sometimes even in the middle of the night."

Books by Shields are regularly available at the Kentucky Artisan Center, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. Special exhibits on display include "Put a Lid on It: Containers by Kentucky Artisans," through Feb. 28, 2015; and on display in the lobby is, "Let it Snow," which includes a large Christmas tree featuring artisan ornaments and gifts. For more information about events call 859-985-5448, go to the center's website at [www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov](http://www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov) or visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center](http://www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center).

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Author Jim Shields and his new book "Starbird's Special Gift"